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(54) **Virtual pbx call processing method.**

(57) A virtual PBX capability is provided to a group of user packet stations (1005, 1006, 1055, 1056) served by a packet switching system (10). The system establishes a virtual circuit between each distinct pair of stations in the group. The stations exchange signaling packets via the virtual circuits and respond to such packets by coordinating the initiation and disconnection of voice, data, or image calls. All call processing, including the provision of features such as call forwarding and automatic callback, is accomplished by stations without the aid of the switching system. A fraud prevention mechanism is included in the switching system to prevent unauthorized stations from communicating as part of the virtual PBX group.

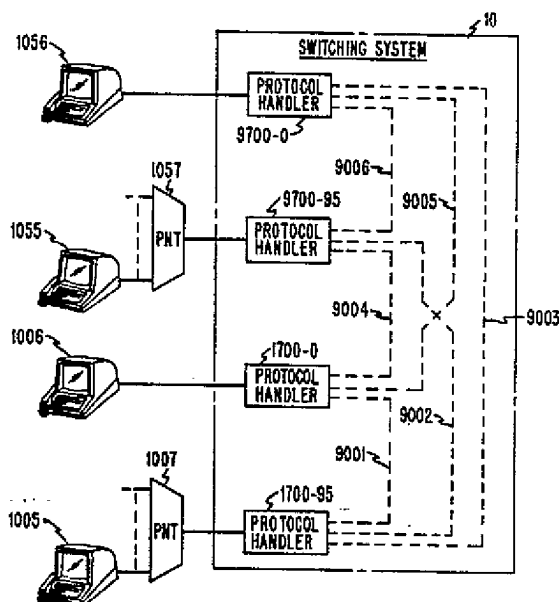


FIG. 1

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| Category | Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages | Relevant to claim | CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl. 4) |
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| | | | TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl. 4) |
| | | | H 04 L |
| The present search report has been drawn up for all claims | | | |
| Place of search THE HAGUE | | Date of completion of the search 08-11-1989 | Examiner STAESSEN B.F. |
| <p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document</p> <p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p> | | | |

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